

and all of Warren County, in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating the City of Indianola in being selected to receive this certification, and I wish the city and its people continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP
JONATHAN TATE, SR.

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Jonathan Tate, Sr., as he celebrates 50 years as pastor of The Anointed Temple Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God in Gulfport, Mississippi.

He began his work with the Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God as an elder, and soon emerged as the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas District Overseer. After many years of dedication and commitment, he now serves as the Mississippi, Louisiana & Texas Diocese Bishop under Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God Presiding Prelate, Bishop G.W. Ayers.

Bishop Tate has served his Church and community in the highest regard and during that time has received numerous honors from local and national organizations, ranging from the NAACP to the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce. A scholar, he holds the degree of Master of Theology in Biblical Studies and is a Certified Counselor. Bishop Tate has been married for 56 years to Reverend Mother Shirley Tate, who has faithfully worked alongside him. They are the parents of seven children, seventeen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A notable spiritual leader in the South Mississippi, I am proud today to acknowledge Bishop Tate, Sr., and his many accomplishments. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Bishop Jonathan Tate, Sr., and congratulate him on 50 years as pastor.

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE
OF MIKE HIGGINS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Michael R. "Mike" Higgins, a member of professional staff with the House Committee on Armed Services, for his retirement from his dedicated service in the House of Representatives, for safeguarding America families by promoting a strong national defense.

Mike has been an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. His career in public service has been a testament to the importance of unselfish devotion.

I have had the pleasure of working with him throughout my 12-year tenure in Congress and I know firsthand of his professionalism. He has brought a variety of skills to his role

with the committee, including a bright intellect, a strong work ethic, and a deeply felt commitment to serve the United States and the service men and women of our United States military. He is truly an asset to the committee and will be sorely missed when he retires in February 2013.

Mike is a military personnel policy expert and it is no accident that people have been at the center of his professional life. His empathy for the needs of the people he serves and commitment to respond to those needs is evident in all that he does. As part of the committee staff, Mike has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of military members and their families. His record and reputation will remain vibrant long after his departure.

As Mike embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he may recall with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment the outstanding contributions he has made to the United States House of Representatives and the people of the United States of America. I would like to send him my best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors, and may his life be filled with health and happiness.

HONORING MAXIMILIAN E.
GALLEGOS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Maximilian E. Gallegos. Maximilian is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Maximilian has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Maximilian has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Maximilian has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Maximilian E. Gallegos for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BILL BARRS AS THE
2013 DODGE COUNTY ROTARY
FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Bill Barrs as this year's 2013 Dodge County Rotary Farmer of the Year. It is certainly an honor that he richly deserves for his role in Georgia's agricultural community.

A native of Laurens County, Bill attended Abraham Baldwin College where he majored in plant science. After graduation, he worked

with the Griffin Warehouse until he began his farming operation in 2003. Since then, his farming operation has grown to 800 acres with cotton and peanuts as his primary row crops—two vital products of Georgia agriculture industry. He also cuts and sells quality hay from more than 150 acres of grassland. Married with two children, Bill and his family are active members of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, on behalf of the great people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, in recognizing Bill for his service to our community and our State.

IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH INTO
THE EFFECTS OF CONTAMINATION
ON REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 15, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of federally supported women's health research; especially reproductive health research in regions of the country that have high contamination such as Superfund sites.

The reproductive health effects of environmental toxins can have significant ramifications for bone, cardiovascular, neurological, and sexual health, resulting in serious health conditions such as osteoporosis, heart attack, and stroke. In the state of Illinois, we currently have 70 Superfund sites that could pose a health threat to nearby communities. While the Federal Government supports a strong portfolio of research into the health implications of exposure to chemicals at these sites, there is a noticeable lack of reproductive health research in this area. It is essential that Congress supports this important area of research.

Northwestern University is developing one of the first major studies on the impact of Superfund contaminants on our reproductive health. The study will examine the reproductive health impacts of exposure to metals including zinc and lead that are present near a former zinc smelter site on the Illinois River near the Village of DePue, Illinois. The site is one of over 30 similar zinc and lead smelter sites across the country, so understanding the health impacts at DePue will help determine best practices for future disposal of those toxic chemicals.

Northwestern has also spearheaded an effort to update the scientific guidelines that the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, uses to determine the threat of environmental toxins to our reproductive health. The Guidelines for Reproductive Toxicity Risk Assessment have not been reviewed or revised since 1996. I strongly support their effort to ensure that the scientific guidelines adequately account for the reproductive health threats posed by toxins to both sexes and across the lifespan. This will help ensure that the EPA has the most comprehensive and up-to-date scientific guidance to assess the risks of chemicals in our environment on our reproductive health.

The environmental effects of toxins threaten the health of more than 10 percent of men, women, and children. It is critical that we increase support for research into the reproductive health implications of different environmental exposures.